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RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTC #0937 3121600  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 071600Z NOV 08  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2204  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2053  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2774  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 1890  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1793  
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0292  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1834  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0638  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 5028  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 5223  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1441  
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 1134  
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0397  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2362  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1812  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4506  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS 0657

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 000937

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [SENV](#) [IO](#) [NL](#)  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS AMBIVALENT ABOUT PROPOSED RIO-PLUS-20  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 116436

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (SBU) The Dutch government has serious reservations about a proposed "Rio 20" Sustainable Development Summit in 2012, and will probably end up supporting the EU consensus on the issue. Econoff discussed reftel points November 7 with Jurjen van der Vlugt, Senior Advisor, Environmental Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Van der Vlugt said the French were "insulted" that Brazil had failed to consult them prior to announcing its intention to table a General Assembly resolution on Rio 20, and therefore were disinclined to be cooperative. He said the EU was currently debating the Rio 20 proposal but had not yet reached agreement on a response to Brazil. He expected France to seek a postponement of the General Assembly resolution.

¶2. (SBU) Van der Vlugt said the Dutch government was "not very enthusiastic" about Rio 20 because there is already an established review timeline within the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, culminating in the 2016/2017 appraisal. He added two caveats to the skeptical Dutch stance: first, Development Minister Bert Koenders places a high priority on sustainable development and might have a personal interest in a Rio 20 summit; and second, the Dutch in theory do see some value in a high-level meeting to look at the overarching sustainable development work underway in other individual fora.

CULBERTSON